



HEALTH CARE FACTS

Health Care Providers

In March 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act became law ([PL 111-148](#)). This law makes historic reforms to our health care system. For **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**, health care reform:

- ✓ **Increases Primary Care Provider Reimbursement**
- ✓ **Reduces Uncompensated Care Expenses**
- ✓ **Provides Tax Credits to Small Businesses**
- ✓ **Reduces Bureaucracy and Paperwork**
- ✓ **Invests in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research**
- ✓ **Innovates with Advanced Primary Care Medical Home Models**
- ✓ **Invests in the National Health Service Corps**
- ✓ **Increases Scholarships and Loan Repayment Programs**

Increases Primary Care Provider Reimbursement

Provides a 10% Medicare and Medicaid bonus for primary care services furnished by primary care providers, and higher bonuses if these health care providers predominantly practice in health professional shortage areas to decrease disparities in primary care income, which is approximately half that of specialist income.

Decreases Health Care Provider Practice Expenses Due to Uncompensated Care

Reduces the amount of uncompensated care by covering the **1.7 million** uninsured in North Carolina, and limits out-of-pocket expenses for those with coverage. Without reform, uncompensated care for all health care providers has been estimated to reach \$141 billion by 2019.

Provides a Tax Credit to Help Small Businesses Provide Health Insurance

Up to **120,235** North Carolina small businesses will be eligible for tax credits to help make health insurance coverage more affordable. To qualify for the small business tax credit, a business must: 1) have fewer than 25 employees; 2) pay an average annual wage below \$50,000; and 3) pay at least 50% of an employee's health insurance premium. Tax credits will be provided up to 35% of the employer's eligible premium expenses for tax years 2010-2013. Beginning in tax year 2014, employers can receive a tax credit for up to 50% of the cost of the premiums. Check out the small business tax credit calculator at: <http://smallbusinessmajority.org/tax-credit-calculator/>.

Cuts Bureaucracy

Simplifies and standardizes paperwork to enable health care providers to focus on caring for their patients instead of dealing with bureaucracy. A national study found that each provider spends on average 142 hours and \$68,274 annually interacting with health plans.

Invests in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

Invests in evidence-based research to provide the data and tools providers need to enable more informed decision-making for themselves and their patients.

Innovates with Medical Home Models

Provides investments for medical homes and other advanced care coordination and disease management models to help providers ensure that their patients do not fall through the cracks and instead receive seamless, efficient care.

Invests in the Health Care Workforce

Increases funding for the National Health Service Corps to enable primary care providers to practice in underserved areas. Approximately 65 million Americans lack access to a primary care provider because of shortages in their communities.

Increases Scholarship and Loan Repayment Opportunities

Invests in low interest loans, scholarships, and loan repayment programs to alleviate this financial burden and encourage students to enter health care fields. Provides incentives to encourage faculty to teach in medical, nursing, and dental schools. Excludes payments made under state loan repayment or loan forgiveness programs from taxable income for health care professionals serving in underserved or health professional shortage areas.